

# The Drug Factor

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 30, 2007

## Office of Drug Control Policy

Prevention ~ Treatment ~ Enforcement

## Synar Achieves Dramatic Results

**KY's rate  
of retailer  
violations  
was 6.3%**

### Upcoming Events

12/3—12/5/07 KY Nar-  
cotic Officer's Confer-  
ence—Hyatt Regency,  
Louisville

1/25—1/26/08 CAP-  
TASA—Embassy Suites,  
Lexington



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced that the sales of tobacco to underage youth have reached all time lows under the Synar Amendment program. The Synar program, named for late Representative Mike Synar of Oklahoma, uses a combination of vigorous enforcement, supportive public policies and development of social climates discouraging youth tobacco use.

This state and federal partnership program is aimed at ending illegal sales of tobacco products to minors. Under the Synar regulations, states must

report annually to SAMHSA their rates of retailer violations—that is the percentage of inspected retail outlets that sold tobacco products to a person under the age of 18. For the first time, all states and territories have achieved their benchmarks. Kentucky's goal was to have less than 20% retailer violation rate. The 2006 report indicates that Kentucky's rate was 6.3%.

Kentucky's Synar program is operated by the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The *FFY 2206 Annual Synar Reports: State Compliance* can be viewed at <http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov>.



**“State tobacco control efforts are working.”**

**The national average of retailer violations is at its lowest point ever.**

### **Justice and Public Safety Cabinet**

#### **Office of Drug Control Policy**

125 Holmes Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-564-9564—Phone  
502-564-6104—Fax  
[www.odcp.ky.gov](http://www.odcp.ky.gov)  
Executive Director



## Facts about Youth Tobacco Use

- ♦ Addiction can occur after smoking as few as 100 cigarettes
- ♦ According to SAMHSA, tobacco addiction is stronger when used by a minor
- ♦ Tobacco use causes more deaths than the combined total of deaths from AIDS, motor vehicle accidents, suicide, murder and drug and alcohol abuse.
- ♦ Smokeless tobacco contains 28 ingredients that can cause cancer
- ♦ It is illegal for anyone under age 18 to purchase tobacco products